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News Release

Contact

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Salt Lake Valley DCFS Passes Court Review

The Salt Lake Valley Region of the Division of Child and Family Services just passed its yearly performance review that is overseen by a federal court monitor. Known as the Qualitative Case Review, the study looks at everything from child safety to school performance to services provided and how satisfied children and parents are with services they receive.

“This means that children and families are receiving needed services, children are safe and stability is being achieved for children and families that come into the child welfare system,” Utah DCFS Director Richard Anderson said. “We are told that nationally the larger urban areas of states are not successful on similar reviews, but our largest area just passed.”

Salt Lake Valley, which includes Salt Lake and Tooele counties, is the second Utah region to succeed. Southwest Region passed in February. All five DCFS regions must pass the review for two years to be removed from federal court oversight. Annual reviews have been conducted since 1998.

The review found that 85.5 percent of cases passed on system performance and 90.1 percent passed on child status, which includes child safety. A passing score is 85 percent on system performance and 90 percent for child safety.

“I can truly say to the Salt Lake Valley administration and staff that they achieved something of great significance for Utah and Utah's children and families after looking at what is happening in child welfare on the national scene in large metropolitan areas,” Anderson said. “After four years of struggling to meet the very specific and numerous Court-ordered changes to the system, the division is achieving positive results and meeting major milestones.”

The National Youth Law Center sued DCFS in 1993 in federal court for alleged unsafe foster care conditions. The state settled the David C. vs. Leavitt case by agreeing to reform the system. The Qualitative Case Reviews are a major portion of the agreement.

Preliminary data also indicates that all five regions are doing well. The preliminary statewide system performance score is 82 percent and the child status score is 94 percent.

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